

2 Revision mechanism

- 2.1 An administration receiving a mail flow of over 150 tonnes a year may have the rate revised when, in a given relation, it establishes that the average number of items contained in 1 kilogramme of mail received is more than 21.
- 2.2 The revision shall be carried out on the terms specified in the Letter Post Regulations.

3 Bulk mail

- 3.1 Administrations which do not authorize access on the conditions offered in the domestic service may request for bulk mail received a payment of 0.14 SDR per item and 1 SDR per kilogramme.
- 3.2 Administrations which authorize access on the conditions offered in the domestic service may apply to bulk mail received a payment corresponding to the domestic tariffs, increased by 9%, offered to national customers for items of the same kind, without being able to exceed the rates given in article 48.2.

Article 52

Exemption from transit charges and terminal dues

- 1 The letter-post items relating to the postal service referred to in article 8.2.2 and undelivered postal items returned to origin in closed dispatches shall be exempted from land and sea transit charges and from terminal dues. **Mails of empty receptacles shall be exempted from terminal dues but not from transit charges which shall be paid by the postal administration owning the receptacles.**

Article 53¹

Air conveyance dues

- 1 The air conveyance dues for the whole distance flown shall be borne:
 - 1.1 in the case of closed mails, by the administration of the country of origin of the mails;
 - 1.2 in the case of priority items and airmail items in transit à découvert, including missent items, by the administration which forwards the items to another administration.
- 2 These same regulations shall be applicable to **items exempted from land and sea transit charges, under the terms of article 52, if they are conveyed by air.**

3 Each administration of destination which provides air conveyance of international mail within its country shall be entitled to reimbursement of the additional costs incurred for such conveyance provided that the weighted average distance of the sectors flown exceeds 300 kilometres. Unless agreement has been reached that no charge should be made, the dues shall be uniform for all priority mails and airmails originating abroad whether or not this mail is reforwarded by air.

4 However, where the terminal dues levied by the administration of destination are based specifically on costs or on domestic rates, no additional reimbursement for internal air conveyance shall be made.

5 The administration of destination shall exclude, for the purpose of calculating the weighted average distance, the weight of all mails for which the terminal dues calculation has been based specifically on costs or on the domestic rates of the administration of destination.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXV.

6 In the absence of special agreement between the administrations concerned, the transit charge scales in the Regulations shall apply to airmail correspondence for any transit by land or by sea. Nevertheless, no **land** transit charges shall be payable for:

- 6.1 the transshipment of airmails between two airports serving the same town;
- 6.2 the conveyance of such mails from an airport serving a town to a depot situated in the same town and the return of the same mails for reforwarding.

Article 54

Basic rates and calculation of air conveyance dues

1 The basic rate applicable to the settlement of accounts between administrations in respect of air conveyance shall be approved by the Postal Operations Council. It shall be calculated by the International Bureau according to the formula specified in the **Letter Post Regulations**.

2 The calculation of air conveyance dues on closed mails, priority items and airmail items in transit à découvert, as well as the relevant methods of accounting, are set out in the **Letter Post Regulations**.

Chapter 4

Provisions specific to postal parcels

Article 55

Quality-of-service targets

1 Administrations of destination shall set a service target for the handling of air parcels addressed to their countries. The target, increased by the time normally required for customs clearance, shall be no less favourable than the target for comparable items in their domestic service.

2 Administrations of destination shall also, as far as possible, set a service target for the handling of surface parcels addressed to their countries.

3 Administrations of origin shall set service targets for air and surface parcels for abroad by reference to the targets set by the administrations of destination.

4 Administrations shall monitor actual performance against the service targets fixed by them.

Article 56¹

Inward land rate

1 Parcels exchanged between two **postal** administrations shall be subject to inward land rates for each country and each parcel calculated by combining the guideline rate per parcel and guideline rate per kilogramme laid down in the Regulations.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXVI and XXVII.

- 2 Bearing in mind the above guideline rates, administrations shall set their inward land rates to bring these into relation with the costs of their service.
- 3 The rates mentioned in 1 and 2 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin, unless this Convention provides for exceptions to this principle.
- 4 The inward land rates shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of each country.

Article 57

Transit land rate

- 1 Parcels exchanged between two administrations or between two offices of the same country by means of the land services of one or more other administrations shall be subject to the transit land rates, payable to the countries whose services take part in the routeing on land, laid down in the Regulations, according to the distance step applicable.
- 2 For parcels in transit à découvert, intermediate administrations shall be authorized to claim the single rate per item laid down in the Regulations.
- 3 The rates mentioned in 1 and 2 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin unless this Convention provides for exceptions to this principle.
- 4 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to revise and amend the transit land rates between Congresses. Any revision made, in accordance with a methodology that ensures equitable remuneration for administrations which conduct transit operations, must be based on reliable and representative economic and financial data. Any change decided upon shall enter into force at a date set by the Postal Operations Council.
- 5 No transit land rate shall be payable for:
 - 5.1 the transfer of airmails between two airports serving the same town;
 - 5.2 the transport of such mails between an airport serving a town and a warehouse situated in the same town and the return of the same mails for reforwarding.

Article 58

Sea rate

- 1 Each of the countries whose services participate in the sea conveyance of parcels shall be authorized to claim the sea rates mentioned in 2. These rates shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin, unless this Convention provides for exceptions to this principle.
- 2 For each sea conveyance used, the sea rate shall be laid down in the **Parcel Post** Regulations according to the distance step applicable.
- 3 **Postal** administrations may increase by 50% at most the sea rate calculated in accordance with article 58.2. On the other hand, they may reduce it as they wish.
- 4 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to revise and amend the sea rates between Congresses. Any revision made, in accordance with a methodology that ensures equitable remuneration for administrations which conduct transit operations, must be based on reliable and representative economic and financial data. Any change decided upon shall enter into force at a date set by the Postal Operations Council.

Article 59

Air conveyance dues

1 The basic rate applicable to the settlement of accounts between administrations in respect of air conveyance shall be approved by the Postal Operations Council. It shall be calculated by the International Bureau according to the formula specified in the Letter Post Regulations.

2 The calculation of air conveyance dues on closed dispatches and air parcels sent in transit à découvert is set out in the Parcel Post Regulations.

3 Transshipment at the same airport, in the course of transmission, of air parcels conveyed successively by several separate air services shall be performed without remuneration.

Article 60

Exemption from rates

1 Rates shall not be allocated for service parcels and for prisoner-of-war and civilian internee parcels, apart from the air conveyance dues applicable to air parcels.

Chapter 5

EMS

Article 61

EMS

1 EMS shall be the quickest postal service by physical means and, in relations with administrations which have agreed to provide this service, EMS takes priority over other postal items. It shall consist of the collection, dispatch and delivery in a very short space of time of correspondence, documents or goods.

2 EMS shall be regulated on the basis of bilateral agreements. Aspects that are not expressly governed by the latter shall be subject to the appropriate provisions of the Acts of the Union.

3 This service shall wherever possible be identified by a logo as shown in the specimen below and comprising the following elements:

- an orange wing;
- the letters EMS in blue;
- three horizontal orange stripes.

The logo may be supplemented by adding the name of the national service.



4 Charges for the service shall be set by the administration of origin in consideration of costs and market requirements.

Part III

Transitional and final provisions

Article 62

Obligation to provide the postal parcels service

1 Notwithstanding article 10.1, countries which, prior to the entry into force of this Convention, were not parties to the Postal Parcels Agreement shall not be obliged to provide the postal parcels service.

Article 63

Undertakings regarding penal measures

1 The governments of member countries shall undertake to adopt, or to propose to the legislatures of their countries, the necessary measures:

- 1.1 for punishing the counterfeiting of postage stamps, even if withdrawn from circulation, and of international reply coupons;
- 1.2 for punishing the use or uttering:
 - 1.2.1 of counterfeit postage stamps (even if withdrawn from circulation) or used postage stamps, as well as of counterfeit or used impressions of franking machines or printing presses,
 - 1.2.2 of counterfeit international reply coupons;
- 1.3 for prohibiting and suppressing all fraudulent operations of manufacturing and uttering adhesive stamps and stamped impressions in use in the postal service, counterfeited or imitated in such a manner that they could be mistaken for the adhesive stamps and stamped impressions issued by the postal administration of a member country;
- 1.4 for preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion in postal items of narcotics and psychotropic substances, as well as explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances, where their insertion has not been expressly authorized by the Convention;
- 1.5 **preventing and punishing the insertion of postal items of a paedophilic nature or of a pornographic nature using children.**

Article 64

Conditions for approval of proposals concerning the Convention and the Regulations

1 To become effective, proposals submitted to Congress relating to this **Convention must** be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting. At least half of the member countries represented at Congress shall be present at the time of voting.

2 To become effective, proposals relating to the Letter Post Regulations and the Parcel Post **Regulations must** be approved by a majority of the members of the Postal Operations Council.

3 To become effective, proposals introduced between Congresses relating to this Convention and to its Final Protocol must obtain:

- 3.1 two thirds of the votes, at least one half of the member countries of the Union having replied to the consultation, if they involve amendments;
- 3.2 a majority of the votes if they involve interpretation of the provisions.

4 Notwithstanding the provisions under 3.1, any member country whose national legislation is as yet incompatible with the proposed amendment may, within ninety days from the date of notification of the latter, make a written declaration to the Director-General of the International Bureau stating that it is unable to accept the amendment.

Article 65

Entry into force and duration of the Convention

1 This Convention shall come into force on **1 January 2001** and shall remain in operation until the entry into force of the Acts of the next Congress.

In witness whereof the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have signed this Convention in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

Done at Beijing, 15 September 1999

Final Protocol to the Universal Postal Convention

At the moment of proceeding to signature of the Universal Postal Convention concluded this day, the undersigned plenipotentiaries have agreed the following:

Prot Article I Ownership of postal items

1 Article 3 shall not apply to Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, **Hongkong, China**, Dominica, Egypt, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tanzania (United Rep), Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, **Vanuatu, Zambia** and Zimbabwe.

2 Nor shall article 3 apply to Denmark, whose internal legislation does not allow withdrawal from the post or alteration of the address of correspondence, at the request of the sender, from the time when the addressee has been informed of the arrival of an item addressed to him.

Prot Article II Charges

1 Notwithstanding article 7.5, the postal administration of Canada shall be authorized to collect postal charges other than those provided for in the Regulations, when such charges are consistent with the legislation of its country.

Prot Article III Exception to the exemption of literature for the blind from postal charges

1 Notwithstanding article 8.4, the postal administrations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Turkey, which do not concede exemption from postal charges to literature for the blind in their internal service, may collect the postage and charges for special services which may not, however, exceed those in their internal service.

2 Notwithstanding article 8.4, the postal administrations of **Austria**, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, **Switzerland** and United States of America may collect the charges for special services which are applied to literature for the blind in their internal service.

Prot Article IV
Basic services

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of article 10, Australia does not agree to the extension of basic services to include postal parcels.

Prot Article V
Small packets

1 Notwithstanding article 10 of the Convention, the postal administration of Saudi Arabia shall be authorized not to accept small packets exceeding 1 kilogramme in weight.

Prot Article VI
Printed papers. Maximum weight

1 Notwithstanding article 10.4.2, the postal administrations of Canada and Ireland shall be authorized to limit to 2 kilogrammes the maximum weight of inward and outward printed papers.

Prot Article VII
Provision of the postal parcels service

1 Latvia and Norway reserve the right to provide the postal parcels service either as laid down in the Convention or, in the case of outward parcels and after bilateral agreement, by any other means which is more favourable to their customers.

Prot Article VIII
Parcels. Maximum weight

1 Notwithstanding article 10.6, the postal administration of Canada shall be authorized to limit to 30 kilogrammes the maximum weight of inward and outward parcels.

Article IX
Maximum limits for insured items

1 Sweden reserves the right to restrict the value of the contents of registered and insured letter-post items and uninsured and insured parcels for Sweden, according to the following maximum limits:

i Inward letter-post items

	Maximum commercial value of contents	Maximum insured value	Maximum indemnity
Registered items	500 SDR	—	30 SDR (M bag: 150 SDR)
Insured items	4000 SDR	4000 SDR	4000 SDR

II Inward parcels

Uninsured parcels	4500 SDR	-	40 SDR per parcel + 4.50 SDR per kilogramme
Insured parcels	4500 SDR	4500 SDR	4500 SDR

The restriction cannot be circumvented by partial insurance of the value exceeding 4000 SDR (for letter-post items) and 4500 SDR (for parcels). There are no new restrictions on the nature of the contents of registered and insured items. Items with a value exceeding these limits will be returned to origin.

Prot Article X Advice of delivery

1 The postal administration of Canada shall be authorized not to apply article 18, as regards parcels given that it does not offer the advice of delivery service for parcels in its internal service.

Article XI International business reply service

1 Notwithstanding article 21.1, the postal administration of Viet Nam does not accept the obligation to provide the return service for IBRS items.

Prot Article XII Prohibitions (letter post)

1 Exceptionally, the postal administrations of Dem People's Rep of Korea and Lebanon shall not accept registered items containing coins, banknotes, securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels or other valuable articles. They shall not be strictly bound by the provisions of the **Letter Post** Regulations with regard to their liability in cases of theft or damage, or where items containing articles made of glass or fragile articles are concerned.

2 Exceptionally, the postal administrations of Bolivia, China (People's Rep), **excluding Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**, Iraq, Nepal, **Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan** and Viet Nam shall not accept registered items containing coins, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels or other valuable articles.

3 The postal administration of Myanmar reserves the right not to accept insured items containing the valuable articles listed in article 25.5, as this is contrary to its internal regulations.

4 The postal administration of Nepal does not accept registered items or insured items containing currency notes or coins, except by special agreement to that effect.

5 The postal administration of Uzbekistan does not accept registered or insured items containing coins, banknotes, cheques, postage stamps or foreign currency and shall accept no liability in cases of loss of or damage to such items.

6 The postal administration of Iran (Islamic Rep) does not accept letter-post items containing articles contrary to the principles of the Islamic religion.

7 The postal administration of the Philippines reserves the right not to accept any kind of letter post (ordinary, registered or insured) containing coins, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones or other valuable articles.

8 The postal administration of Australia does not accept postal items of any kind containing bullion or bank notes. In addition, it does not accept registered items for delivery in Australia, or items in transit à découvert, containing valuables such as jewellery, precious metals, precious or semi-precious stones, securities, coins or any form of negotiable financial instrument. It declines all liability for items posted which are not in compliance with this reservation.

9 The postal administration of China (People's Rep), excluding Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, shall not accept insured items containing coins, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer and travellers' cheques in accordance with its internal regulations.

10 The postal administrations of Latvia and Mongolia reserve the right not to accept, in accordance with their national legislation, ordinary, registered or insured mail containing coins, bank notes, securities payable to bearer and travellers' cheques.

11 The postal administration of Brazil reserves the right not to accept ordinary, registered or insured mail containing coins, banknotes in circulation or securities of any kind payable to bearer.

12 The postal administration of Viet Nam reserves the right not to accept letters containing articles or goods.

Prot Article XIII

Prohibitions (postal parcels)

1 The postal administrations of Canada, Myanmar and Zambia shall be authorized not to accept insured parcels containing the valuable articles covered in article 25.5.2, since this is contrary to their internal regulations.

2 Exceptionally, the postal administrations of Lebanon and Sudan shall not accept parcels containing coins, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver whether manufactured or not, precious stones or other valuable articles, or containing liquids or easily liquefiable elements or articles made of glass or similar or fragile articles. They shall not be bound by the relevant provisions of the Parcel Post Regulations.

3 The postal administration of Brazil shall be authorized not to accept insured parcels containing coins and currency notes in circulation, as well as any securities payable to bearer, since this is contrary to its internal regulations.

4 The postal administration of Ghana shall be authorized not to accept insured parcels containing coins and currency notes in circulation, since this is contrary to its internal regulations.

5 In addition to the articles listed in article 25, the postal administration of Saudi Arabia shall be authorized not to accept parcels containing coins, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones or other valuable articles. Nor does it accept parcels containing medicines of any kind unless they are accompanied by a medical prescription issued by a competent official authority, products designed for extinguishing fires, chemical liquids or articles contrary to the principles of the Islamic religion.

6 In addition to the articles referred to in article 25, the postal administration of Oman does not accept items containing:

- 6.1 medicines of any sort unless they are accompanied by a medical prescription issued by a competent official authority;
- 6.2 fire-extinguishing products or chemical liquids;
- 6.3 articles contrary to the principles of the Islamic religion.

7 In addition to the articles listed in article 25, the postal administration of Iran (Islamic Rep) shall be authorized not to accept parcels containing articles contrary to the principles of the Islamic religion.

8 The postal administration of the Philippines shall be authorized not to accept any kind of parcel containing coins, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver whether manufactured or not, precious stones or other valuable articles, or containing liquids or easily liquefiable elements or articles made of glass or similar or fragile articles.

9 The postal administration of Australia does not accept postal items of any kind containing bullion or bank notes.

10 The postal administration of China (People's Rep) shall not accept ordinary parcels containing coins, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones or other valuable articles. Furthermore, with the exception of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, insured parcels containing coins, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer and travellers' cheques shall not be accepted.

11 The postal administration of Mongolia reserves the right not to accept, in accordance with its national legislation, parcels containing coins, bank notes, securities payable to bearer and travellers' cheques.

12 The postal administration of Latvia does not accept ordinary and insured parcels containing coins, banknotes, securities (cheques) of any kind payable to bearer or foreign currency, and shall accept no liability in cases of loss of or damage to such items.

Prot Article XIV

Articles subject to customs duty

1 With reference to article 25, the postal administrations of Bangladesh and El Salvador do not accept insured items containing articles subject to customs duty.

2 With reference to article 25, the postal administrations of Afghanistan, **Albania**, **Azerbaijan**, Belarus, **Cambodia**, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dem People's Rep of Korea, El Salvador, **Estonia**, Italy, Latvia, Nepal, Peru, **San Marino**, **Turkmenistan**, Ukraine, **Uzbekistan** and Venezuela do not accept ordinary and registered letters containing articles subject to customs duty.

3 With reference to article 25, the postal administrations of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Djibouti, Mali, **Mauritania** and **Viet Nam** do not accept ordinary letters containing articles subject to customs duty.

4 Notwithstanding the provisions set out under 1 to 3, the sending of serums, vaccines and urgently required medicaments which are difficult to procure shall be permitted in all cases.

Prot Article XV

Withdrawal from the post. Alteration or correction of address

1 Article 29 shall not apply to Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, **Hongkong, China**, Dem People's Rep of Korea, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Grenada, Guyana, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tanzania (United Rep), Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu and Zambia, whose legislation does not permit withdrawal from the post or alteration of address of letter-post items at the sender's request.

2 Article 29 shall apply to Australia only in so far as that article is consistent with its domestic legislation.

3 Notwithstanding article 29.4, El Salvador, Panama (Rep), Philippines and Venezuela shall be authorized not to return postal parcels after the addressee has requested their clearance by Customs, since this is incompatible with those countries' customs legislation.

Prot Article XVI

Inquiries

1 Notwithstanding article 30.4, the postal administrations of Cape Verde, Chad, **Dem People's Rep of Korea, Egypt**, Gabon, Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Greece, Iran (Islamic Rep), Mongolia, Myanmar, **Philippines**, Saudi Arabia, **Sudan**, Syrian Arab Rep, **Ukraine** and Zambia reserve the right to collect from customers charges on inquiries lodged in respect of letter-post items.

2 Notwithstanding article 30.4, the postal administrations of Argentina, **Austria**, Czech Rep and Slovakia reserve the right to collect a special charge when, on completion of the investigation conducted in response to the inquiry, it emerges that the latter was unjustified.

3 The postal administrations of Afghanistan, Cape Verde, Congo (Rep), **Egypt**, Gabon, Iran (Islamic Rep), Mongolia, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, **Sudan**, Suriname, Syrian Arab Rep, **Ukraine** and Zambia reserve the right to collect an inquiry charge from customers in respect of parcels.

Prot Article XVII

Presentation-to-Customs charge

1 The postal administration of Gabon reserves the right to collect a presentation-to-Customs charge from customers.

2 The postal administrations of Congo (Rep) and Zambia reserve the right to collect a presentation-to-Customs charge from customers in respect of parcels.

Prot Article XVIII

Liability of postal administrations

1 The postal administrations of Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo (Rep), Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Djibouti, India, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Turkey shall be authorized not to apply article 34.1.1.1 with respect to liability in cases of theft from or damage to registered items.

2 Notwithstanding articles 34.1.1.1 and 35.1, the postal administrations of Chile, China (People's Rep), Colombia and Egypt shall be liable only for the loss of, total theft of or total damage to the contents of registered items.

3 Notwithstanding article 34, the postal administrations of Egypt and Saudi Arabia shall accept no liability in case of loss of or damage to items containing articles mentioned in article 25.5.

4 The postal administrations of India and Nepal shall be authorized not to apply article 34.1.1.1 with respect to liability in cases of theft from or damage to ordinary parcels.

Prot Article XIX Compensation

1 Notwithstanding article 34, the following postal administrations shall have the right not to pay compensation for uninsured parcels lost, rifled or damaged in their service: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Gambia, those of the Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose internal regulations do not permit them to comply, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Nauru, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2 Notwithstanding article 34, the postal administrations of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Greece, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam shall have the right not to pay compensation for uninsured parcels lost, rifled or damaged in their service to countries which do not pay such compensation in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

3 Notwithstanding article 34.8, the United States of America shall be authorized to maintain the sender's right to indemnity for insured parcels after the addressee has taken delivery thereof, unless the sender waives this right in favour of the addressee.

4 The United States of America, when acting as an intermediate postal administration, shall be authorized not to indemnify other administrations in the event of loss of, theft from or damage to transit insured parcels conveyed à découvert or forwarded in closed mails.

5 Notwithstanding article 34, the postal administration of Viet Nam has the right not to pay compensation for lost or damaged registered items or parcels which contain currency, securities payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, gold, silver or precious stones.

6 Notwithstanding the provisions of article 34, Canada has the right not to pay indemnity for, nor to account for the loss of, theft from or total damage to ordinary parcels, and not to refund the charges and fees paid.

Prot Article XX Exceptions to the principle of liability

1 Notwithstanding article 34, Bolivia, Dem Rep of the Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey and Yemen shall be authorized to pay no indemnity for damage to parcels coming from any country and addressed to them, containing liquids or substances which easily liquefy, glass articles or articles of a similar fragile or perishable nature.

2 Notwithstanding article 34, Saudi Arabia and Sudan shall have the right not to pay compensation for parcels containing articles prohibited under article 25.5.

Prot Article XIX

Non-liability of the postal administration

1 The postal administration of Bolivia shall not be required to observe article 35.1 as regards maintenance of its liability in case of total theft or total damage of registered items.

2 The postal administration of Nepal shall be authorized not to apply article 35.1.4 as regards parcels.

Prot Article XXII

Payment of indemnity

1 The postal administrations of Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guinea, Nepal and Nigeria shall not be obliged to comply with article 37.3 in so far as concerns finally settling the matter within a period of two months or informing the administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, when a letter-post item has been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authorities because of the contents, or has been seized by virtue of its domestic legislation.

2 The postal administrations of Congo (Rep), Djibouti, Guinea, Lebanon, Madagascar and Saudi Arabia shall not be obliged to comply with article 37.3 in so far as concerns finally settling a claim concerning a letter-post item within a period of two months. Nor do they agree to the rightful claimant's being indemnified, on their behalf, by another administration upon expiry of the above-mentioned period.

3 The postal administrations of Angola, Guinea, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia shall not be obliged to comply with article 37.3 as regards finally settling a claim concerning a parcel within two months. Nor do they agree to the rightful claimant's being indemnified, on their behalf, by another administration upon expiry of the above-mentioned period.

4 The postal administrations of Niger and Thailand shall not be obliged to comply with article 37.3 insofar as concerns finally settling the matter sent to them by fax within a period of thirty days. Nor do they agree to the rightful claimant's being indemnified, on their behalf, by another administration upon expiry of the above-mentioned period.

5 Notwithstanding the provisions of article 37.3, Malaysia and the United States of America reserve the right to respond finally to inquiries within two months from the date of the inquiry, regardless of the means of transmission of the inquiry.

Prot Article XXIII

Posting abroad of letter-post items

1 The postal administrations of Greece, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America reserve the right to impose a charge, equivalent to the cost of the work it incurs, on any administration which, under the provisions of article 43.4, sends to it items for disposal which were not originally dispatched as postal items by their services.

2 Notwithstanding article 43.4, the postal administration of Canada reserves the right to collect from the administration of origin such amount as will ensure recovery of not less than the costs incurred by it in the handling of such items.

3 Article 43.4 allows the postal administration of destination to claim, from the administration of posting, appropriate remuneration for delivering letter-post items posted abroad in large quantities. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reserves the right to limit any such payment to the appropriate domestic tariff for equivalent items in the country of destination.

4 Article 43.4 allows the postal administration of destination to claim, from the administration of posting, appropriate remuneration for delivering letter-post items posted abroad in large quantities. The following countries reserve the right to limit any such payment to the limits authorized in the Regulations for bulk mail: Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, **China (People's Rep)**, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Grenada, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand and United States of America.

5 Notwithstanding the reservations under 4, the following countries reserve the right to apply in full the provisions of article 43 of the Convention to mail received from Union member countries: Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Monaco, **Morocco**, Portugal, **Saudi Arabia**, Senegal, Syrian Arab Rep and Togo.

6 In application of article 430.4 the postal administration of Germany reserves the right to request the postal administration of the mailing country to grant compensation of the amount it would receive from the postal administration of the country of which the sender is resident.

Prot Article XXIV Terminal dues

1 Notwithstanding articles 49.1.3 and 51.1.3, the postal administrations of Egypt, Kuwait, Latvia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Rep, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam shall not be required to make an additional payment in respect of the delivery of registered letter-post items sent from their countries.

2 Notwithstanding articles 49.1.3 and 51.1.3, the postal administrations of Djibouti, Ghana, India, Nepal and Yemen shall not be required to make an additional payment in respect of the delivery of registered and insured letter-post items sent from their country.

3 Notwithstanding reservations made by any country in respect of articles 49.1.3 and 51.1.3, the postal administration of Australia will not collect a signature for registered items for which the additional payment in respect of delivery has not been made.

4 With respect to countries making reservations to obligations under articles 49.1.3 and 51.1.3 to make an additional payment for registered and insured items the United States of America reserves the right to handle such items as ordinary mail and not to pay indemnity for any such items lost, rifled, or damaged in its service.

5 Notwithstanding the reservations under article XXIV, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom shall reserve the right to fully apply the provisions approved by the Beijing Congress regarding supplementary remuneration for delivery of registered and insured letter-post items in their relations with other countries.

6 Notwithstanding the reservations made under article XXIV.1 and 2, the following member countries shall reserve the right to fully apply the provisions approved by the Beijing Congress regarding supplementary remuneration for delivery of registered letter-post

items in their mutual relations with the countries having signed this reservation: Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria (Rep), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Cuba, Czech Rep, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras (Rep), Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland (Rep), Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Overseas Department territories of the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela.

7 In resolution C 46/1999, Congress instructs the Postal Operations Council to work out, before the year 2002, the methodology for converting the domestic tariffs and/or costs of postal administrations into terminal dues rates, and to define the definitive percentages of domestic tariffs for the years 2004 and 2005. If this instruction is not implemented in due course, Germany reserves the right to define itself the percentages pursuant to article 48.3 for the years 2004 and 2005 in accordance with the principles laid down in that article.

8 In resolution C 46/1999, Congress instructs the Postal Operations Council to work out, before the year 2002, the methodology for converting the domestic tariffs and/or costs of postal administrations into terminal dues rates and to define the definitive percentages of tariffs for the years 2004 and 2005. Notwithstanding article XXIV.7, reserving the right to define unilaterally the percentages pursuant to article 48.3 for the years 2004 and 2005 if the POC has not implemented the instruction of resolution C 46/1999 in due course, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America reserve the right to continue applying terminal dues rates based upon the methodology and percentages for converting domestic tariffs into terminal dues rates in effect for the years 2001 to 2003, unless agreement has been reached to apply different terminal dues rates on a mutually agreeable basis or unless the POC has otherwise determined the new percentages of domestic tariffs to be applied for the years 2004 and 2005.

9 The postal administration of Germany reserves the right to administer itself the financial resources provided for the Fund financial the improvement of quality of service in developing countries under article 50.1.1.1 until the principles and criteria laid down by the POC regarding the administrative, financing and procedural structure of this Fund have been implemented.

10 The United States of America supports the terminal dues system enacted in articles 47 to 51. Nonetheless, with respect to members of the World Trade Organization, the United States of America reserves the right to implement these terminal dues agreements in accordance with the provisions adopted in future negotiations involving the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

11 Notwithstanding the reservations made under article XXIV, the following member countries shall reserve the right to fully apply the provisions approved by the Beijing Congress regarding terminal dues in their mutual relations with the countries having signed these reservations: Austria, Bahamas, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria (Rep), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Congo (Rep), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Cuba, Czech Rep, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras (Rep), Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland (Rep), Portugal, Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Prot Article **XXV**

Internal air conveyance dues

1 Notwithstanding article **53.3**, the postal administrations of Bahamas, Cape Verde, Congo (Rep), Cuba, **Dem People's Rep of Korea**, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras (Rep), Mongolia, **Nepal**, Papua New Guinea, **Peru**, **Philippines**, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu reserve the right to collect the dues for the air conveyance of international mails within their countries.

2 Notwithstanding article **53.3**, the postal administration of Myanmar reserves the right to collect the dues for the conveyance of international mails within its country whether or not these mails are reforwarded by air.

3 Notwithstanding article **53.3**, the postal administration of Bangladesh reserves the right to collect the dues for the conveyance of international mail within its country whether or not these mails are reforwarded by air and irrespective of the distance travelled.

4 Notwithstanding articles **53.4** and **53.5**, the postal administrations of Canada, Iran (Islamic Rep), Turkey and United States of America shall have the right to recover from the postal administrations concerned, in the form of uniform dues, the internal air conveyance costs they incur for mail received from any administration for which they apply terminal dues compensation based specifically on costs or on internal tariffs.

5 On the basis of reciprocity, the postal administration of Oman shall have the right to recover, from the postal administrations mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 3 above, the supplementary costs incurred for the air conveyance within its country of letter-post mails received from those administrations, whether these mails are forwarded by air or by some other means.

Prot Article **XXVI**

Exceptional inward land rates

1 Notwithstanding article **56**, the postal administration of Afghanistan reserves the right to collect an additional exceptional inward land rate of 7.50 SDR per parcel.

Prot Article **XXVII**

Special tariffs

1 The postal administrations of **Belgium**, **Norway** and United States of America may collect higher land rates for air parcels than for surface parcels.

2 The postal administration of Lebanon shall be authorized to collect for parcels up to 1 kilogramme the charge applicable to parcels over 1 and up to 3 kilogrammes.

3 The postal administration of Panama (Rep) shall be authorized to collect 0.20 SDR per kilogramme for surface airtlifted (S.A.L.) parcels in transit.

In witness whereof, the plenipotentiaries below have drawn up this Protocol which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the Convention itself, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

Done at Beijing, 15 September 1999